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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/932,286	08/17/2001	Steven B. McGowan	884.516US1	4742

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EXAMINER

HASHEM, LISA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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11/27/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/932,286	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MCGOWAN, STEVEN B.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Lisa Hashem	<b>Art Unit</b> 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2007.
- 2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                      2b)  This action is non-final.
- 3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4)  Claim(s) 34-36, 41 and 45-48 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6)  Claim(s) 34-36, 41, and 45-48 is/are rejected.
- 7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:
    - 1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    - 2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    - 3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 34-36, 41, and 45-48 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 34-36, 47, and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,757,913 by Knox.

Regarding claim 34, Knox discloses a sound generation device (Fig. 1) comprising:

an audio source to generate an audio signal (Fig. 1, 10; col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 6; col. 5, lines 1-5 and 17-22);

a frequency modulation (FM) radio frequency (RF) transmitter (Fig. 1, 160), coupled to the audio source, to transmit an FM carrier signal modulated with the audio signal, the FM carrier signal having a specific carrier frequency within the range of 87.7 to 107.9 megahertz (approx 900 MHz) that does not interfere with transmission frequencies in a commercial FM broadcast band of 87.7 to 107.9 megahertz in a geographical region in which the sound generation device is currently located (col. 3, lines 65 – col. 4, line 1; col. 4, lines 7-62; col. 5, lines 5-15 and lines 36-52);

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a channel locator controller (Fig. 1, 200) to identify an available non-interfering carrier frequency, wherein the channel locator controller includes an RF receiver (Fig. 4, 201), (wirelessly) coupled to the RF transmitter, to receive FM signals having different carrier frequencies; and a channel locator circuit, coupled to the RF receiver, to identify two or more bands of FM carrier frequencies below a minimum signal strength (col. 9, lines 1-8); wherein the channel locator controller is configured to identify an available non-interfering carrier frequency from an evaluation of the two or more bands of FM carrier frequencies (col. 4, lines 50-62; col. 9, lines 8-21); and an out-of-band transmitter (Fig. 4, 260) to transmit a channel selection signal comprising the available non-interfering carrier frequency (col. 9, lines 15-21).

Regarding claim 35, the sound generation device recited in claim 34, wherein Knox discloses the sound generation device further comprises: a channel selection circuit, coupled to the RF transmitter, to select the available carrier frequency on which to transmit the FM carrier signal (col. 4, lines 21-26; col. 5, lines 5-52).

Regarding claim 36, the sound generation device recited in claim 34, wherein Knox discloses the sound generation device comprises one of an MP3 (Motion Picture Experts Group, Audio Layer 3) player, a compact disk player, a mini-disk player, a micro-disk player, a digital music player, a digital video disk player, a cassette tape player, a radio, a cellular phone, a handheld computer, a portable computer, a television, a video player, a personal digital assistant, an electronic musical instrument, an electronic toy, and a wireless microphone (col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 6; col. 5, lines 1-5 and 17-22).

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Regarding claim 47, the sound generation device recited in claim 34, wherein Knox discloses the channel locator controller identifies the available non-interfering carrier frequency by selecting a center frequency of a first band of FM carrier frequencies having at least a predetermined frequency width (col. 4, lines 7-62; col. 5, lines 5-15 and lines 36-52).

Regarding claim 48, the sound generation device recited in claim 34, wherein Knox discloses the channel locator controller identifies the available non-interfering carrier frequency by selecting a center frequency of a widest identified band (col. 4, lines 7-62; col. 5, lines 5-15 and lines 36-52).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 41, 45, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knox in view of Konisi.

Regarding claim 41, Knox discloses a portable electronic device (Fig. 1) comprising: an audio source to generate an audio signal (Fig. 1, 10; col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 6; col. 5, lines 1-5 and 17-22); a frequency modulation (FM) radio frequency (RF) transmitter (Fig. 1, 160), coupled to the audio source, to transmit an FM carrier signal modulated with the audio signal; and a channel locator controller to identify an available non-interfering carrier frequency for the FM carrier signal having a specific carrier frequency within the range of 87.7 to 107.9 megahertz

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(approx 900 mHz) that does not interfere with transmission frequencies in a commercial FM broadcast band of 87.7 to 107.9 megahertz in a geographical region in which the portable electronic device is currently located (col. 3, lines 65 – col. 4, line 1; col. 4, lines 7-62; col. 5, lines 5-15 and lines 36-52);

wherein the channel locator controller (Fig. 1, 200) includes a stored program digital computer, the computer to store a database of two or more available non-interfering carrier frequencies (col. 4, lines 21-26; col. 5, lines 5-52; col. 9, lines 1-8);

and

wherein the channel locator controller is configured to identify a selected non-interfering carrier frequency from two or more available non-interfering frequencies stored in the database based on an evaluation of the two or more available non-interfering frequencies (col. 4, lines 50-62; col. 9, lines 8-21).

Knox discloses identifying a selected non-interfering carrier frequency from available non-interfering frequencies. However, Knox does not disclose a geolocation source.

Konisi discloses a portable electronic device (Figs: 1A, 1B; col. 7, line 66 – col. 9, line 7) comprising:

an audio source (col. 11, line 64 - col. 12, line 40) to generate an audio signal coupled with a geolocation source (col. 8, lines 6-22; Fig. 1A, 112);

a frequency modulation (FM) radio frequency (RF) transmitter (Fig. 1B, 222), coupled to the audio source, to transmit an FM carrier signal modulated with the audio signal (col. 8, line 65 – col. 9, line 2), the FM carrier signal having a specific carrier frequency that does not interfere

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with transmission frequencies in a commercial FM broadcast band in a geographical region in which the sound generation device is currently located (col. 7, lines 1-31; col. 12, lines 20-40); and a channel locator controller (Fig. 1B, 100) to identify a non-interfering carrier frequency, wherein the channel locator controller includes a stored program digital computer (Fig. 1B, 144), the computer to store a database of non-interfering carrier frequencies arranged by geoposition (col. 10, lines 28-32); and a geoposition source (col. 8, lines 6-22; Fig. 1A, 112) coupled to the stored program digital computer to provide a geoposition to the stored program digital computer.

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the portable electronic device of Knox to include a geoposition source as taught by Konisi. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such a modification to provide a source that can detect the location of the portable electronic device and provide local broadcasting information to the device according to its location.

Regarding claim 45, the device recited in claim 41, wherein Knox discloses the audio source comprises prerecorded audio source material (col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 6; col. 5, lines 1-5 and 17-22).

Regarding claim 46, the device recited in claim 41, wherein Knox discloses the audio source comprises a digital music player (col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 6; col. 5, lines 1-5 and 17-22).

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***Conclusion***

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892 Form.

8. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Or faxed to:**

(571) 273-8300 (for formal communications intended for entry)

**Or call:**

(571) 272-2600 (for customer service assistance)



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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lisa Hashem whose telephone number is (571) 272-7542. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

lh  
November 16, 2007

  
FAN TSANG  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600